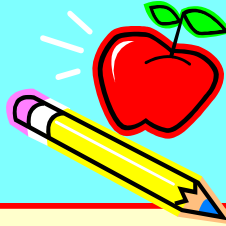




# LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the  
Apostle  
Grand Rapids, MI

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## Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

### Fantastic First Graders

We are really rolling now in First Grade! We finished all the names in the class early this week and **we have had a blast making words with names and writing about each other.** The book everyone made about your child will come home next week. They are really proud of those.

The art teacher, Mrs. Williams, has asked that all kids bring in a **paint shirt.** Please send in an old shirt your child can use as a paint shirt with **their name clearly written on the inside tag.**

Lisa Mullen told me the first grade gathering is this Saturday at the Chalfoun's house. She said she was going to send an evite with the details.

### Upcoming Events

#### **Book Orders Due**

Monday, October 10

*Worship in Spirit and  
Truth!*



### Volunteers

I only have a couple people who said they can come and listen to kids read during the week from 9-10. A few of you said you have little ones at home. If you think they could play quietly while you are reading you are welcome to bring them. **Please let me know if you are available to listen to kids read,** I'd really like to have a couple here each day. Thanks so much for your help!!!

### Homework

**We will have homework that comes home each Monday and is due at the end of the week.** Right now the students are expected to read 10-20 minutes a night for the Book It program (info. came home earlier this week). We started homework with a fun project, and those instructions will come home **today for a project due on Friday.** These are due next Friday. The regular homework will come home the following **Monday.** All materials needed will be in the folder every week.

Book orders are in your child's mailbox today. Order at [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs) using our code:

# GVW64

## Reading/Writing

We will start work next week on our **Wonderful Word Wall Words**. Each week we learn **5 new words**. We **chant them and spell them and frame them and write them many times**. Finally on Fridays we get to write them in our personal word wall folders. This week we put all of our names in our books, along with **"I"** and **"a."**

We are just getting started using our **journals**, and as we start I will be teaching them "mini-lessons" on thinking about what to write, how to sound out words and how to use complete sentences with capitals and periods. We are working hard on remembering our **handwriting skills**. Please help with this at home, following the guidelines I handed out for Handwriting Without Tears, and above all, **make sure they start their letters at the top!!!**

## Math

We are starting **touch math** next week. This incorporates **hearing, seeing, speaking and touching numbers** so that children with all learning styles can be **successful** learning addition and subtraction. This is just another tool they can use-- some may use it all the time and some may choose not to, and that's ok too! Thursday I sent home a **handout** so you can see the touch points for the numbers. The **double dots are to count twice. In addition problems, the child says the bigger number and continues counting while touching the smaller number to get a sum.** For example  $8 + 3 = 11$  the child touches 8, says, "8" and continues counting while touching the three touch points on the three (eight... nine, ten, eleven). This way they can even do the higher numbers:  $25 + 8 = 33$  (twenty-five... 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33). Eventually, as your child learns the touch points, he/she will feel as if the dots are present even when they are not, and then they won't need them at all! Some of the first graders already know how to add, but I am teaching them all the strategy, then will differentiate instruction according to their readiness levels.

## Science and Social Studies

This week for science we continued our study on **nutrition** which we will cap off with our trip to the Farmer's Market on Friday. We made our "Foods I Like" book using grocery ads and also did a song and book "Eating through the Week." The kids seem to have a really good understanding of what is healthy food. Next week in Science we will do some **comparing and measuring**.

In Social Studies we talked about **Johnny Appleseed** this week and worked on some mapping skills.

## Religion

This week we worked in Chapter 2, **"God is Our Father and Creator."** We learned God created us in His image and that he created the world because he loves us. We learned we are to be caretakers of the wonderful world God created. Next week we will talk about **"Jesus is the Son of God"** and talk about all the things Jesus taught when he was here with us.